

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-224. (Canceled)

225. (Previously Presented) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of a library unit, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the library unit has an identification (library ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book from an operation center; upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code from the operation center to the library unit, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the library ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the library unit, the data signal and the local authorization code; storing the received authorization code;

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

at the electronic book viewer,

decrypting the encrypted content of the electronic book using the local authorization code;

displaying pages of the electronic book;

storing the electronic book in a memory, and

controlling viewing of the electronic book via a control panel of the electronic book viewer,

wherein the electronic viewer is separate from the library unit and communicates with library unit via a wired or wireless interface.

226. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 225, wherein the library unit further comprises an external interface to an external receiver, the external receiver receiving the data, the external interface transmitting the data to the library unit.

227. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 226, wherein the external receiver is a television receiver.

228. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 226, wherein the external receiver is a radio receiver.

229. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 226, wherein the external receiver is a spread spectrum receiver.

230. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 226, wherein the external receiver is a modem.

231. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 225, wherein the library ~~unit is steps of receiving, communicating, transmitting, and storing the local authorization code are performed by a set top terminal operably connected to a television, and wherein the step of receiving the data signal receives broadcast television program signals, the data signal multiplexed with the television program signals, the method further comprising demultiplexing the data signal and the television program signals.~~

232. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 225, wherein the library ~~unit is steps of receiving, transmitting, storing the local authorization code, and communicating are performed by a smart card incorporated into a digital television, and wherein the step of receiving the data signal receives broadcast television program signals, the data signal multiplexed with the television program signals, the method further comprising demultiplexing the data signal and the television program signals.~~

233. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 225, wherein the library ~~unit is steps of receiving the data signal, communicating, transmitting, and storing the local authorization code are performed by a smart card incorporated into a digital television, and wherein the digital television comprises a receiver that receives broadcast television program signals.~~

234. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 233, wherein the digital television further comprises a demultiplexer that demultiplexes the received digital broadcast television program signals and the data signal.

235. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 225, wherein the library unit is ~~steps of receiving the data signal, communicating, transmitting and storing the local authorization code are performed in a personal computer.~~

236. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 235, wherein the personal computer further comprises a connector that couples the personal computer to a digital television, the digit television comprising a second receiver that receives the digital broadcast television program signals and the data signal, and wherein the personal computer sends the data signal and the local authorization code to decrypt the data signal.

237. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 236, wherein the connector is one of a radio frequency connector, an infra red connector and a wired connector.

238. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 237, wherein the wired connector comprises RS-232 connections and an RS-232 cable.

239. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the end point site has an identification

(endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer,

wherein the step of transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the endpoint site is performed by one of a telephone modem, a cable modem, a wireless modem, an integrated services digital network (ISDN) connector, a fiber optic connector, a local area net (LAN) connector and a satellite antenna connector.

240. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

wherein the data signal and the authorization code are received through an interface, wherein the interface comprises one of a radio frequency connector, a telephone modem, a cable modem, a wireless modem, an integrated digital services network connector, a fiber optic connector, and a local area net connector and a satellite antenna connector.

241. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

communicating, via a processor of an endpoint site, with an electronic book ordering site for supplying an electronic book selection;

receiving, via the processor of the endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from the electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

receiving a data signal and a local authorization code at the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer,

wherein the step of communicating generates an electronic book menu, and wherein the method further comprising sending commands, via a remote control, to scroll the electronic book menu and to select a desired electronic book for ordering.

242. (New) The method of claim 241, wherein the remote control is one of a wired control, an infra red control, and a radio frequency control.

243. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;
upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and
transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and
wherein the electronic book is provided using a cable television network.

244. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;
upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;
storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

wherein the electronic book is provided via a broadcast.

245. (New) The method of claim 244, wherein the broadcast is provided from a national broadcaster.

246. (New) The method of claim 244, wherein the broadcast is provided from a broadcast affiliate.

247. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers

matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

wherein the electronic book is provided using a satellite broadcast, and wherein the satellite broadcast includes one or more of a direct to-home broadcast, a video network distribution broadcast, a regional broadcast, and a forward communications service broadcast.

248. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic

book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

wherein the ordering site includes one of a local cable system, a broadcast affiliate, a national broadcaster, an intranet site, an electronic book store and an electronic library.

249. (New) The method of claim 248, wherein the step of transmitting sends an electronic book selection to the local cable system, the local cable system returning the local authorization code.

250. (New) The method of claim 248, wherein the local authorization code is multiplexed with digital broadcast television program signals.

251. (New) The method of claim 248, wherein the step of transmitting sends an electronic book selection to the broadcast affiliate, the broadcast affiliate returning the local authorization code.

252. (New) The method of claim 251, wherein the local authorization code is multiplexed with digital broadcast television program signals.

253. (New) The method of claim 248, wherein the step of transmitting sends a program selection to the national broadcaster, the national broadcaster returning the local authorization code.

254. (New) The method of claim 253, wherein the local authorization code is multiplexed with digital broadcast television program signals.

255. (New) The method of claim 248, wherein the ordering site comprises an authorization system, the authorization system receiving the request of the electronic book and generating an authorization signal, the authorization signal providing the local authorization code.

256. (New) The method of claim 255, wherein the ordering site is co-located with one of the local cable company, the broadcast affiliate and the national broadcaster.

257. (New) The method of claim 255, wherein the ordering site system includes a billing system, the billing system receiving the authorization signal and generating a billing record.

258. (New) The method of claim 257, wherein the billing record debits a subscriber's account.

259. (New) The method of claim 257, wherein the billing system sends the billing record to a subscriber for payment.

260. (New) The method of claim 257, wherein the billing system charges a subscriber's credit card account.

261. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;
upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;
storing the received authorization code; and
transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

wherein the ordering site includes an electronic book menu, receives the electronic book selection and receives the processor identification.

262. (New) The method of claim 261, wherein the ordering site includes a billing system, the billing system receiving the local authorization code and generating a billing record.

263. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;
upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and
transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer,

wherein the local authorization code, comprises:

an identification code;

an address; and

one or more electronic book identifiers, wherein the identification code uniquely identifies the electronic book viewer receiving electronic book access authorization, the address identifies a location of the electronic book viewer and routing instructions, and the one or more electronic book identifiers specify the electronic books that are authorized for decrypting.

264. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, an electronic book selection including a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification (endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer, and

wherein the electronic book selection comprises a subscription.

265. (New) The method of claim 264, wherein the subscription is for an electronic newspaper.

266. (New) The method of claim 264, wherein the subscription is for an electronic magazine.

267. (New) The method of claim 264, wherein the subscription is received at the endpoint site periodically upon a log on of the method.

268. (New) A method for providing electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving, via a processor of an endpoint site, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the endpoint site has an identification

(endpoint ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes an electronic book viewer that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

requesting the electronic book;

upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code to the endpoint site, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the endpoint ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

receiving, at the endpoint site, the data signal and the local authorization code;

storing the received authorization code; and

transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the electronic book viewer,

wherein the data signal further comprises a menu of available electronic books.

269. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the menu includes an electronic book abstract, author, cost and year of publication of an original hard copy text.

270. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the menu includes a review of the electronic book.

271. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the menu includes a hypertext link to a web site on an Internet.

272. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the menu includes submenus.

273. (New) The method of claim 272, wherein the submenus include an electronic book selection confirmation submenu.

274. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the menu is displayed on a web page of an Internet, the web page including a home page and additional pages, the home page and the additional pages accessible by operation of forward, back and home buttons.

275. (New) The method of claim 268, wherein the menu is provided in a hard-copy format, the hard copy format including electronic book identifiers.

276. (New) The method of claim 275, wherein one or more of the electronic book identifiers are entered into the endpoint site to send the electronic book selection.

277. (New) The method of claim 276, wherein the electronic book identifiers are entered into the endpoint site by operation of a remote control coupled to the endpoint site.

278. (New) The method of claim 276, wherein the electronic book identifiers are entered into the endpoint site by operation of a soft key board displayed on a viewer.

279. (New) The method of claim 276, wherein the electronic book identifiers are entered into the endpoint site by operation of a key board coupled to a personal computer.

280. (New) A system that provides electronic books to a subscriber, comprising:

means for receiving, via a processor of a library unit, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book ordering site, wherein the library unit has an identification (library ID), and wherein the electronic book ordering site includes a means for viewing that has a viewer identification (electronic book viewer ID);

means for requesting the electronic book from an operation center;

means for, upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

means for transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code from the operation center to the library unit, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the library ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

means for receiving, at the library unit, the data signal and the local authorization code;

means for storing the received authorization code;
means for transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the
means for viewing, and
the means for viewing comprising:
means for decrypting the encrypted content of the electronic book using
the local authorization code;
means for displaying pages of the electronic book;
means for storing the electronic book, and
means for controlling viewing of the electronic book via a control panel of
the electronic book viewer,
wherein the means for viewing is separated from the library unit and
communicates with the library unit via a wired or wireless interface.

281. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable
medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to execute a method
for providing electronic books to a subscriber, the control logic comprising:
first computer readable program code means for means for receiving, via a
processor of a library unit, a request for an electronic book from an electronic book
ordering site, wherein the library unit has an identification (library ID), and wherein the
electronic book ordering site includes a means for viewing that has a viewer
identification (electronic book viewer ID);
second computer readable program code means for requesting the electronic
book from an operation center;

third computer readable program code means for, upon a determination that a status of an account associated with the electronic book viewer is current, determining that the electronic book viewer is an authorized viewer;

fourth computer readable program code means for transmitting a data signal and a local authorization code from the operation center to the library unit, wherein the data signal comprises an encrypted content of the requested electronic book, and at least two unique ID numbers, wherein one of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the library ID and another of the at least two unique ID numbers matches the electronic book viewer ID, wherein the local authorization code is used to decrypt the encrypted content of the requested electronic book;

fifth computer readable program code means for receiving, at the library unit, the data signal and the local authorization code;

sixth computer readable program code means for storing the received authorization code;

seven computer readable program code means for transmitting the data signal and the local authorization code to the means for viewing, and

the means for viewing comprising:

eighth computer readable program code means for decrypting the encrypted content of the electronic book using the local authorization code;

ninth computer readable program code means for displaying pages of the electronic book;

tenth computer readable program code means for storing the electronic book, and

eleventh computer readable program code means for controlling viewing
of the electronic book via a control panel of the electronic book viewer,
wherein the means for viewing is separated from the library unit and
communicates with the library unit via a wired or wireless interface.